

Telephone Exchange at Chapra in Bihar

991. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commissioning of Chapra Exchange in Bihar after expansion has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons and period of delay thereof;

(c) whether the required capacity of Air Conditioning and Power Generation after capacity expansion is inadequate; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About three and half months delay on account of difficulty in providing airconditioning.

(c) Adequate Power supply has since been made available. Marginal extra capacity of A/C Plant is required.

(d) Additional Window type A/C Units have been installed. The exchange is scheduled for commissioning within a month.

Reduction of Airfares

992. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to reduce the airfares of Air India and Indian Airlines between Kozhikode (Calicut) and West Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other facilities which are given by the Air India and Indian Airlines to gulf bound passengers at Calicut airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Air India and Indian Airlines have introduced special fares on international flights ex-Calicut effectively giving discounts of 10% - 15% on IATA published fares to bring the fare structure ex-Calicut at par with that prevalent ex-Trivandrum.

(c) Indian Airlines also operates domestic leg of international flights on Calicut - Bombay sector to enable international passengers travelling over Bombay to complete customs and immigration formalities at Calicut itself.

[Translation]

Crushing of Sugarcane

993. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had announced certain

incentives for sugar mills to continue their crushing work even after June 1996 in view of availability of huge quantity of sugarcane;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that even after the announcement of these incentives the sugar mills did not continue the crushing work of sugarcane after June 1996;

(d) the number of those sugar mills who are ready to crushing after June;

(e) whether the Government had enquired about the quantity of sugarcane available in the country before the announcement of such incentives;

(f) if so, the State-wise break-up thereof; and

(g) the quantity of sugarcane utilised for sugar production in the current crushing year?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) and (b). To compensate sugar factories for uneconomic operation due to low recovery during the hot summer months, the Government has announced incentive in the form of higher free-sale sugar quota at the rate of 75% for the period 15th April to 31st May, 1996 and 100% for the period 1st June to 30th September, 1996 as against normal free sale quota of 60%.

(c) and (d). No Sir, Out of 412 factories which started crushing operation during the current season, 1995-96, 101 factories were still in operation as on 1-7-96.

(e) and (f). There were reports about standing cane required to be crushed even beyond June and as such to facilitate this late crushing the above incentive was announced. It can be availed of only by such units which continued to crush cane during the above periods.

(g) As per available information received from sugar factories about 1505 lakh tonnes of sugarcane has been crushed during the current season, 1995-96 (upto 31-5-1996).

Cess on Sugar

994. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether tax is levied as Sugar Development Cess from sugar industry in the country;

(b) if so, the rate of recovering the cess and since when such cess recovery is started and the total amount collected by the end of March, 1996;

(c) whether any financial assistance or grants were given under different heads from the amount collected through cess during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the terms and conditions and rate of interest of recovery of loan granted from this fund; and

(f) the remaining amount in this fund by the end of March 1996?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVEANDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir, a cess at the rate of Rs. 5 per quintal was levied from 1.6.1982. It was raised to Rs. 14 per quintal with effect from 1.11.1982. The total amount collected by the end of March, 1996 is Rs. 1798.27 crores

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The headwise details of financial assistance or grants is given in the enclosed Statement

(e) the terms and conditions and rate of interest of recovery of Sugar Development Fund loans are as under

For Modernisation/Rehabilitation loans

Rule 16(l) of SDF Rules 1983, provides that any sugar undertaking, which is approved by a financial institution for assistance under its relevant scheme for modernisation and rehabilitation for the purpose of rehabilitation/modernisation of the plant and machinery, shall normally be eligible for a loan under this Rule.

The amount of loan that can be allowed will be limited to 80% of the promoter's contribution or 40% of the total eligible cost of the project whichever is less in case of non-MRTP companies and 70% of the promoter's contribution or 35% of the total eligible cost of the project whichever is less in the case of MRTP companies. The loan is given at a concessional rate of 9% simple interest per annum and is repayable in a maximum period of 13 years including a period of moratorium of eight years

For Cane Development Loans :

Rule 17(l) provides, that a loan can be sanctioned to a sugar undertaking in connection with the development of sugarcane in its area. The SDF loan is granted only if the sugar undertaking or the State Government contributes and minimum of 10% of the loan applied for from its own resources as margin money. Loan is advanced at a concessional rate of simple interest of 9% per annum and repayment of loan is to be made within 7 years, including a period of moratorium of 3 years

Loan for upgradation of Technologies in Sugar Industry:

Since 1995-96 SDF loan is also provided for upgradation of Technologies of any sugar undertaking which is sponsored by the Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council and approved by a Financial Institution. The amount of loan that can be allowed will be limited to a maximum of 60% of the

eligible project cost. The loan will be given at a concessional rate of 6% simple interest per annum and is repayable in a maximum period of 10 years with a maximum of 5 years moratorium

(f) The balance amount in the Sugar Development Fund at the end of March, 1996 was Rs. 1014.69 crores.

STATEMENT

Details of Financial Assistance or Grants Given under Different Heads from the Amount Collected from Cess

S No	Heads	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	Subsidy for maintenance of buffer stock of sugar	120.82	146.49	771.92
2	Grant-in-aid for research scheme aimed at development of sugar industry	16.05	146.83	28.29
3	Loans to sugar mills for cane development schemes	3777.81	1326.134	900.54
4	Loan for modernisation/rehabilitation of sugar mills	7750.062	5026.596	4605.576
Total		11664.742	6646.05	6306.326

[English]

New Post Offices in Coochbehar

995. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN .
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK .
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR .

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received representation from Coochbehar (West Bengal), Phulbani (Orissa), Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala for opening of new Post Offices Sub-Post Offices

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the new Post Office opened during the last three years, till date, State-wise, District-wise,

(d) the number of new Post Offices proposed to be opened alongwith target period thereof, State-wise, District-wise,

(e) whether there is always a shortage of postal stationery in Post Offices of far flung areas of various States including Delhi, and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?